Modification in Labour Law

†*178. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of LABOUR be please to state:

(a) whether government propose to modify labour laws;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any steps, so far; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (c) Review/updation of labour laws is an ongoing process in order to bring them in tune with the prevailing situation and emerging needs of the economy. Taking into consideration the requirement of productivity, competitiveness, employment generation and economic reforms and to update the provisions, a need has been felt to make amendments in certain labour laws and steps initiated accordingly. A Group of Ministers on labour reforms has been set up. The Government has also set up the Second National commission on labour with a view to suggest rationalization of existing laws relating to labour in the organised sector and to suggest an umbrella legislation for ensuring a minimum level of protection to the workers in the unorganised sector.

Import of sugar

*179. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning to stop import of sugar in view of heavy sugar stocks in the country; and

(b) if so, the details of the contract of sugar import with the countries from where sugar is being imported, presently?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR): (a) and (b) In order to discourage the import of sugar, Government has increased the customs duty on import of sugar to 60% with effect from 9.2.2000. The countervailing duty of Rs.850/- per tonne has also been retained. This has checked the import of sugar. The import of sugar during the year 2000-01 was 30,612 tonnes as against 11,81.183 tonnes during the preceding year.

Since no sugar is being imported on Government Account, details of contracts of sugar import are not readily available.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.